

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAM-01 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY H:LPEZZULLO:MHS

APPROVED BY H:RJMCCLOSKEY

EUR:BLAINGEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057130

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT:CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 1377

1. ON THE BASIS OF YOUR CABLE, WE CALLED CHAIRMAN FASCELL TO IMPRESS ON HIM THE DELICATE SITUATION YOU FACE, ESPECIALLY AS NOTED IN PARA 3, IN LIGHT OF WHICH WE SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT OF HEARING OR GOING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

2. FASCELL SAID HE APPRECIATED CONCERN. HE NOTED,

HOWEVER, THAT HIS SUBCOMMITTEE WAS ONLY SEEKING GENERAL INFORMATION ON A TROUBLE SPOT. HE SAID HE PREFERRED TO BEGIN IN OPEN SESSION BUT WOULD MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION IF SENSITIVE ISSUES RAISED. HE PROMISED CALL THE MEMBERS TOGETHER BEFORE THE SESSION TO ALLOW LAINGEN AND HIMSELF TO IMPRESS UPON THEM THAT SOME SEEMINGLY INNOCENT COMMENT COULD BE PLAYED BACK IN MAGNIFIED FORM IN A VOLATILE LISBON TO THE DETRIMENT OF US INTERESTS. FASCELL IS
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CONVINCED THIS WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE

MEMBERS.

3. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP AT THE OUTSET SO WE COULD COME BACK WITH A CATEGORIC NO AND PUT AN END TO THAT ISSUE. (FYI THIS IS IN THE PREPARED OPENING STATEMENT.)

4. WE ARE CONVINCED BY FASCELL THAT ON BALANCE IT IS BEST TO GO AHEAD WITH HEARINGS IN OPEN SESSION. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

INGERSOLL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: LISBON
Type: TE
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